

Appl. No.: 10/796,375
Docket No.: 347269-991360
Response to Office Action of September 20, 2005

REMARKS:

Claims 1-32 are pending in the current application. Claims 1-9, 11, 14-18, and 21-29 have been rejected. Claims 10, 12-13, 19-20, and 30-32 have been objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 3-4, 10-13, 17-20, 22-25, 28, and 30-32 have been amended. Claim 9 has been canceled, and claims 10-13 have been amended for consistency to depend from claim 1. Claim 18 has been canceled, and claims 19-20 have been amended for consistency to depend from claim 17. Claims 28 and 30-32 have been amended to depend from claim 26. Claims 33-38 have been newly added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 3-4, 18, 23, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 3-4 and 23 have been amended to recite that the reflective electrode and the transparent electrode cover a portion of the organic layer in the reflective region. Claim 25 has been amended to recite that the organic layer covers a portion of the transparent electrode in the reflective region. Claim 18 has been canceled. Claims 13, 20, 24, 28 and 30 have been amended for clarity. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 14-15, and 22-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,330,047 B1 to *Kubo et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, noting that the cited reference does not disclose every element of the claims. In particular, *Kubo* fails to disclose that the interface electrode is electrically coupled with the transparent electrode *in the interface region*, or that the thin film transistor has one of a source electrode or a drain electrode *that extends from the reflective region to the interface region to form the interface electrode*.

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Independent claims 1, 22, and 26 recite that *the interface region is located between the reflective region and the transmissive region*. The Examiner seems to define the interface region as being “a contact hole area, the function [of which] is an interface for electrical coupling.” (Office Action dated 09/20/05, pg. 3-4). This is not the same as the interface region of Applicants’ claims. Thus, even if Kubo discloses electrical coupling in a contact hole area, it still does not disclose electrical coupling within the interface region as recited in Applicants’ claims. Furthermore, *Kubo* Fig. 2 discloses that the contact hole (6), and hence the electrical connection, is located in the reflective electrode region (22), and not the interface region. (i.e., *Kubo*, col. 14, lines 18-20). Accordingly, the section of *Kubo* cited does not disclose this element of the claims.

In addition, the *Kubo* reference fails to disclose a thin film transistor *having one of a source electrode or a drain electrode that extends from the reflective region to the interface region to form an interface electrode*, and that the interface electrode is electrically coupled with the transparent electrode. For example, *Kubo* Fig. 2 discloses a thin film transistor having a drain (16) located in a reflection electrode region. (i.e., *Kubo*, col. 14, lines 58-60). The drain is electrically connected to a transparent conductive film (21) through a connecting electrode (5). (i.e., col. 13, lines 22-25; col. 14, lines 18-20). Accordingly, neither the source electrode (15) nor the drain electrode (16) extends from a reflective region to an interface region to form an interface electrode, as recited in the claims.

Applicants’ review of the cited reference failed to find any disclosure of a source electrode or a drain electrode extending from the reflective region to the interface region to form an interface electrode. (i.e., *Kubo*, Figs. 2, 7, 19, 31, 33, 35, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 54-55, 58-59, 61-63, and 65). Instead, *Kubo* discloses using a connecting electrode to electrically connect a thin film transistor to a transparent conductive film in a reflection electrode region. Thus, the cited reference does not disclose every element of the claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 22, and 26 are patentable over the cited reference, and that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Claims 2-7, 11, and 14-15 depend from claim 1. Claims 23-25 depend from claim 22. Claims 27-29 depend from claim 26. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 22, and 26 are patentable, and that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 8, 16-18, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kubo* in view of *Okumura* (U.S. Publication No. US2005/0024559 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, noting that the cited references do not disclose every element of the claims. In particular, neither *Kubo* nor *Okumura* discloses or suggests an interface electrode that is electrically coupled with a transparent electrode, where the interface electrode is formed by one of a source electrode or a drain electrode of a thin film transistor that extends from a reflective region to an interface region. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 17, and respective dependent claims 8 and 16, and 21, are patentable over the cited reference and are now in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Newly added claims 33-38 depend from claim 26, and as such are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 26. It is thus respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION:

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

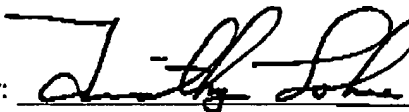
The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the number below in order to speed prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1896 and reference Attorney Docket No. 347269-991360.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12-20-05

By:  35,255
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